

Remarks

Formal drawings are submitted herewith.

Claims 22-27 are sought to be added. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, and 12-14 are sought to be amended. Upon entering this amendment, claims 1-16 and 22-27 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 13, and 22 being the independent claims. No new matter has been introduced by any amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Priority and Inventorship

A Supplemental Application Data Sheet was filed November 19, 2004, which removed any claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §120.

The Supplemental Application Data Sheet also removed Robert Sicilia as an inventor. Submitted herewith are documents pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b) to remove Robert Sicilia as an inventor. He is no longer an inventor based on cancelling of claims 17-21 in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 19, 2004.

The Examiner is asked to ensure that the record for the instant application in PAIR properly reflects these changes.

Objection to the Figures

Applicant is submitting Formal drawings herewith.

The Examiner objected to the Figures under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing a first gap formed by the sealing member and tip and a second gap formed by the nozzle and the tip.

Applicants direct the Examiner to, for example, Figures 2A and 2B (relevant portions shown below), which show one example of this above feature. For example, the first gap is, for example, element 79 in Figure 2B (e.g., see paragraph 22 in the instant application) and the second gap is, for example, element 49 in Figure 2A (e.g., see paragraph 16 in the instant application).

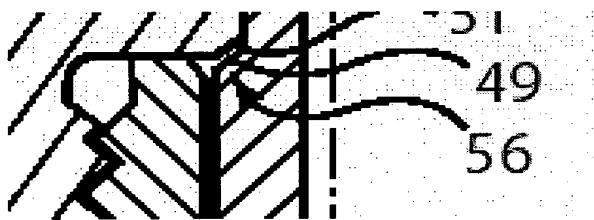


Figure 2A

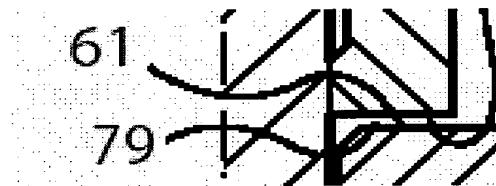


Figure 2B

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,004,871 to Hardy (“Hardy”). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites at least “wherein ... said nozzle tip is at least partially slidable within said nozzle channel.”

Hardy teaches in Figure 2 a tubular body 110 (alleged to be a nozzle tip) having first and second portions 118 and 120. First portion 118 is positioned between plate 15, annular flange 102 of annular body 100, and second portion 120. Second portion 120 is positioned between gate 48, female mold section 16, and first portion 118. It is suggested that first and second portions 118 and 120 are brazed together (see Col. 3, line 57) and that tubular body 110 is brazed or welded to annular flange 102 (see Col. 3, line 60). Even without brazing or welding, based on their configuration, neither separate portions 118 and 120 or a combined tubular body 110 can slide within annular body 100. None of the other embodiments of Hardy teach or suggest that elements 110a or 110b are able to perform at least this feature with respect to housing 100a or 100b, respectively.

Therefore, Hardy fails to teach or suggest at least “wherein ... said nozzle tip is at least partially slidable within said nozzle channel,” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Also, at least based on their dependency, claims 2-12 should be found allowable over the applied reference.

Claim 13

Claim 13 recites at least “wherein said nozzle tip is flexible and bends laterally to align said melt channel with said mold gate.”

Based on the construction of the Harding device, described above, it is clear that the tubular body 110 is not designed to be flexible and capable of bending. Thus, Hardy

fails to teach or suggest at least this feature. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of this claim. Also, at least based on their dependency, claims 14-16 should be found allowable over the applied reference.

New Claims 22-26

New claim 22 recites at least “the nozzle tip being at least partially slidable within the nozzle melt channel.”

As discussed above with regards to claim 1, Hardy fails to teach or suggest at least “the nozzle tip being at least partially slidable within the nozzle melt channel.”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner find claim 22 allowable. Also, at least based on their dependency, claims 23-26 should be found allowable.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

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Appl. No. 10/699,867

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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